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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/002,259

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Junichi Yamagishi

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EXAMINER

YOO, JASSON H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3714

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/07/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/002,259

Applicant(s)

YAMAGISHI, JUNICHI

Examiner

Jasson H. Yoo

Art Unit

3714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 July 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4-18-07
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 1 recites the limitation of, "the processing section of the medal keeping and paying server apparatus is connected with the operation information storing means of the medal keeping and paying server apparatus through the network interface" and "connecting the processing section of each of the plurality of the medal keeping and paying client apparatus with the operation information storing means of the medal keeping and paying server apparatus through the network interface of the medal keeping and paying server apparatus". It appears that the network interface is one electrical device that connects to processor, the memory, and the client apparatus. However, Applicant specification discloses a plurality network interfaces (3 in Fig. 1), each network interface allowing the processor, the memory and the client apparatuses to be connected in the network respectively. Therefore it will be assumed that there are a plurality of network interfaces that allows the processor, the memory and the client apparatuses to be connected in the network.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hasegawa (JP Publication number: 09-117567) in view of Walker et al. (US 6,001,016).

Claim 1; Hasegawa discloses a medal keeping and paying system comprising:
at least one medal keeping and paying server apparatus, the medal keeping and paying server comprising:

medal keeping means for counting and keeping at least one input medal (deposit section; page 4, paragraph 5),

medal paying means for paying the at least one medal if a payment signal is input (expenditure section; page 4, paragraph 5),

right person information inputting means for inputting right person peculiar information for identifying a right person such as physical information to authenticate the right person (optical input device; page 4, paragraphs 5-6, 14),

operation information storing means for storing at least count information associated with at least the medal keeping means (magnetic memory and computer; page 5, paragraphs 10-11),

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right person information storing means in which the right person peculiar information for identifying the right person such as the physical information to authenticate the right person is previously stored (page 5, paragraphs 6, 11, 14),

a memory for temporarily keeping information which is being processed such as the count information of the medal keeping means (magnetic memory and computer; page 5, paragraphs 10-11), and

a processing section (page 5, paragraph 11) which

authenticates a right person from the right person peculiar information input from the right person information inputting means and the right person peculiar information stored in the right person information storing means (page 5, paragraphs 11, 14), and which

outputs, when the right person is authenticated, a payment signal to the medal paying means and controls payment of a medal from the medal paying means, and a plurality of medal keeping and paying client apparatus comprising (page 5, paragraphs 11, 14):

medal keeping means for counting and keeping an input medal (deposit section; page 4, paragraphs 5, 14);

medal paying means for paying a medal if a payment signal is input (deposit section; page 4, paragraphs 5, 14);

right person information inputting means for inputting right person peculiar information for identifying a right person such as physical information to authenticate a right person (optical input device; page 4, paragraphs 5-6, 14);

right person information storing means in which the right person peculiar information for identifying the right person such as the physical information to authenticate the right person is stored (magnetic memory and computer; page 5, paragraphs 10-11),;

a memory for temporarily keeping information which is being processed, wherein the information comprises the count information of the medal keeping means (magnetic memory and computer; page 5, paragraphs 10-11); and

a processing session which authenticates a right person from the right person peculiar information input from the right person information inputting means and the right person peculiar information stored in the right person information storing means (page 5, paragraphs 11, 14).

However, Hasegawa does not teach the medal keeping and paying system is connected to a network. Analogous to Hasegawa medal keeping and playing system, where the credit and player's information are monitored, Walker et al. teach of a credit and player tracking system connected to a network. Walker et al. teach the following features:

a plurality of credit and player tracking client apparatuses (remote terminal 5 in Fig. 1, and cols. 3:60 – 4:8) and a credit and player tracking server apparatus connected in a network (Fig. 1);

each credit and player tracking client apparatus is capable of receiving credit and players' information from the player and from the server (cols. 4:44-59, 5:51 – 7:7), and

the credit and player tracking server apparatus is capable of storing credit and players' information, update credit and players' information, and access credit and players' information (col. 8:19-48).

The network server and the plurality of gaming apparatuses are connected to an operation information storing means for storing credit information (player database stores credit balance, col. 6:10-21).

The multiple credit and player information apparatuses connected in a network, allow players to choose from a plurality of gaming apparatuses (Figs. 1, 8, 9; cols. 6:45-61, 7:34-43, 48-54, 8:12-17), and thus prevent the problem of having only one apparatus in the gaming center providing service to a large number of players. The credit and player tracking system further allows the game management to monitor the gaming machines, and the players account (col. 8:40-48):

Therefore it would have been obvious in one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Haseagwa medal keeping and playing system with players' credit and personal information, and incorporate Walker's player's and credit and personal information tracking system connected in a network, in order to allow multiple apparatuses to service the players, and allow the game management to easily monitor the gaming machines, and the players account.

Furthermore, Walker specifically teaches the storing means (440 in Fig.) in electrically coupled to the processing section (410 in Fig. 3) to form a network with the gaming apparatuses (2 in Fig. 1). An electrical network interface is inherent in order to couple two electrically devices to share information in a network.

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Claim 3; Hasegawa in view of Walker teach a plurality of medal keeping and paying apparatus (Walker, plurality of remote terminal in Fig. 1).

Claim 5, 7; Hasegawa discloses a medal keeping and paying system wherein,

The right person information storing means stores the right person peculiar information, and is an information record card possessed by a right person (page 4, paragraph 5; page 5, paragraph 6),

the medal keeping and paying system further comprises information reading means for reading the right person peculiar information from the information record card (page 4, paragraph 5; page 5, paragraph 6),

the processing sections process the right person peculiar information read from the information record card by the information reading means to authenticate the right person (page 5, paragraphs 11, 14).

Claim 9, 11; Hasegawa discloses a medal keeping and paying system as discussed above, and further comprising

index information inputting means (32a in drawing 1) for inputting index information to read out the right person peculiar information from the right person information storing means (page 5, paragraphs 9-14), wherein

the processing section process the right person peculiar information read out by the input index information to authenticate the right person (page 5, paragraph 11).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 7/2/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Hasegawa in view of Walker fail to disclose the specific network architecture system of the processing section of the server connected to the server. However, as noted above, Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is assumed that there are a plurality of network interfaces that allows the processor, the memory and the client apparatuses to be connected in the network. Walker specifically teaches the storing means (440 in Fig.) in electrically coupled to the processing section (410 in Fig. 3) to form a network with the gaming apparatuses (2 in Fig. 1). An electrical network interface is inherent in order to couple two electrically devices to share information in a network.

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jasson H. Yoo whose telephone number is (571)272-5563. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xuan M. Thai can be reached on (571)272-7147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JHY



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